



20 September 2017

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**CONCLUSIONS OF THE
INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC WORKING GROUP
ON CUSTOMS MATTERS**

BSEC Headquarters, 20 September 2017

1. The Informal Meeting of the BSEC Working Group on Customs Matters was held at the BSEC Headquarters on 20 September 2017.
2. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:

Republic of Armenia
Republic of Azerbaijan
Russian Federation
Republic of Turkey
Ukraine
3. The following BSEC Related Body also participated in the Meeting:

Parliamentary Assembly of the BSEC (PABSEC)
4. The following BSEC Observers attended the Meeting:

Arab Republic of Egypt
United States of America
European Commission
5. The following BSEC Sectoral Dialogue Partner also participated in the Meeting:

Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA)
6. The representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and International Road Transport Union (IRU) participated in the Meeting as Guests.
7. The List of Participants in the Meeting is attached as **Annex I**.

8. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Sergii KRAVCHENKO, Consul in charge of BSEC, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul, and Mrs. Didem DİRLİK SONGÜR, Head of Department for Multilateral Relations, Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Draft Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as **Annex II**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED TO CUSTOMS MATTERS AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES

10. The BSEC PERMIS informed the participants on the state of implementation of the Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the BSEC Council and of the Declarations adopted by the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States.

11. The participants of the Meeting exchanged views on the issue and agreed that there was no need to discuss updating the list of representatives to the Working Group on a long term basis during the meetings of the Working Group. Instead, it was agreed that the BSEC PERMIS, in consultation with the Country-Coordinator will update the list before each Meeting of the Working Group. The current list of representatives of the Member States to the Working Group on Customs Matters is attached as **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: HARMONIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

12. The Delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed on recent measures taken at national level for the harmonization and simplification of customs procedures. It was emphasized that the Customs Authorities of the Republic of Turkey are modernizing their tools and technology focusing on developing IT systems.

13. The representative of Turkey, in his presentation, provided detailed information on e-TIR Pilot Projects with Iran and Georgia on Customs to Business/Business to Customs (C2B2C) e-data exchange and Customs to Customs (C2C) data exchange, as well as on Single Window system in Turkey, launched on 26 January 2017, on works done so far in accordance with the requirements of the WTO TFA, which entered into force on 22 February 2017, and on Compulsory Pre-Declaration Submission (TIRCUS), the implementation of which has become compulsory as of April 2017.

14. The participants took note of the information provided by BSEC PERMIS that so far only three BSEC Member States provided the links of their websites with available information to be used for elaboration of the draft “*Manual on import, export and transit procedures in the BSEC Member States*” and invited the interested Member States to provide the necessary information as soon as possible.

15. The participants invited the BSEC PERMIS, in cooperation with the Country-Coordinator, to elaborate the above mentioned draft *Manual* based on information provided by the BSEC Member States and submit it for consideration to the next Meeting of the Working Group.

16. The representatives of the BSEC-URTA touched upon the obstacles existing in the Region and elaborated on the possible ways out from this situation. In this respect, information also was provided on *IRU-BSEC-URTA-TOBB Seminar on Computerization of TIR Procedures and other Road Transport Related Documents* (Istanbul, 15 June 2017) and on 18th International Conference *International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects* (Odessa, 6-7 September 2017), outcome documents of which are attached as **Annexes IV and V.**

17. A presentation was made by the representative of the IRU, Mr. Raphael HIRT, Head eTIR, on Digitalisation of TIR procedures, concerning the initiatives taken at various levels to modernize the TIR Convention through digitalisation of its procedures. During the presentation the representative of the IRU confirmed the IRU's continuous support to the modernisation of the TIR procedure, through: Signing of a long term cooperation agreement with UNECE targeting the full digitalisation of the TIR procedure; Announcement at next session of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) that the IRU will propose to finance the cost of the establishment at UNECE of the Customs to Customs data exchange platform, the so-called eTIR international system, within a balanced Private-Public partnership; and Continued support to Customs Authorities to implement data exchange mechanisms between Customs, Transport operators and IRU. The presentation is attached as **Annex VI.**

18. The participants invited the Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States to continue to share their experience in harmonization and simplification of customs procedures at the next meetings of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGING EXPERIENCE ON METHODOLOGY OF TIME RELEASE STUDY

19. The delegation of the Republic of Turkey informed the participants on the latest developments on the issue which took place in Turkey.

20. The participants agreed to the usefulness of exchange of information.

AGENDA ITEM 5: STRATEGIES AND POLICIES OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN ENHANCING INTEGRITY OF OFFICIALS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE BSEC REGION

21. The initiative to coordinate with neighbours as well as to consider the establishment of a network between neighbouring countries in the BSEC Region to combat the phenomena was put forward by the BSEC PERMIS and the BSEC Member States were invited to consider this issue at the forthcoming meetings of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPROVING CUSTOMS OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMS CONTROL IN RESPECT OF GOODS FOR PERSONAL USE MOVED IN INTERNATIONAL E-COMMERCE

22. The participants agreed to continue consideration of this issue at the forthcoming meetings of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM 7: PARTICIPATION OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON CUSTOMS MATTERS

23. The BSEC PERMIS provided information on the issue.

24. The List of International Conventions on Customs Matters to which the Member States are parties, as updated, is attached as **Annex VII**.

25. The Member States were invited to continue to inform the BSEC PERMIS on changes of their status of participation in the International Conventions on Customs Matters.

AGENDA ITEM 8: COOPERATION BETWEEN BSEC AND THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)

26. The participants took note of the information provided by the BSEC PERMIS on the issue and invited the Latter to continue its efforts to conclude a MoU between BSEC and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

AGENDA ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 10: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

28. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Matters will be communicated to the Member States through the diplomatic channels.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INFORMAL MEETING

29. The participants adopted the Conclusions of the Informal Meeting to be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials.

**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC
WORKING GROUP ON CUSTOMS MATTERS**

BSEC Headquarters, 20 September 2017

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	<u>NAME / SURNAME</u>	<u>TITLE / POSITION / INSTITUTION</u>	<u>TEL / FAX NUMBERS / E-MAIL</u>
CO- CHAIRPERSONS	Mr. Sergii KRAVCHENKO	Consul in charge of BSEC, Consulate General of Ukraine in Istanbul	Tel: +90 212 662 25 41 E-mail: serhii.kravchenko@mfa.gov.ua
	Mrs. Didem DİRLİK SONGÜR	Head of Department for Multilateral Relations, Directorate General for the EU and External Relations, Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey	Tel: +90312 449 27 46 E-mail: D.Dirlik@gtb.gov.tr
BSEC MEMBER STATES			
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA	Mr. Arsen AVAGYAN	Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the Organization of BSEC	Tel & Fax: +90212 225 67 59 E-mail: a.avagyan@mfa.am
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN	Mr. Igbal BABAYEV	Chief of Head Department of Performance Measurement and Development Programs, State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Tel: +99412 404 22 00 (ext. 3232) +99412 404 22 06 E-mail: igbal.babayev@customs.gov.az
	Mr. Ramiz HAJIZADE	Attaché, Consulate General of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Istanbul	Tel: +90212 325 80 42 ext: 125 E-mail: rhajizade2014@ada.edu.az

**RUSSIAN
FEDERATION**

Mr. Andrei SYRCHIN

Representative of the Federal
Customs Service of the Russian
Federation in Istanbul

Tel: +90534 550 27 29
E-mail: fgs-istanbul@mail.ru

Mr. Aleksei CHEKMAREV

Attaché, Consulate General of the
Russian Federation in Istanbul

Tel : +90212 292 51 01
E-mail: subintegr@yandex.ru

**REPUBLIC OF
TURKEY**

Mr. Mehmet Ali ORAN

EU Expert, Directorate General for
the EU and External Relations,
Ministry of Customs and Trade

Tel: +90312 449 28 64
E-mail: M.Oran@gtb.gov.tr

Ms. Damla KESTEL

Assistant EU Expert, Ministry of
Customs and Trade

Tel: +90312 449 28 70
E-mail: D.Kestel@gtb.gov.tr

UKRAINE

Mr. Andrii TEPLYI

Head of AEO Division, State
Fiscal Service of Ukraine

Tel: +38044 247 28 57
+38067 403 44 31
E-mail: andrii.teplyi@sfs.gov.ua

BSEC RELATED BODY

**PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY OF
BSEC (PABSEC)**

Mr. Artur MARTIROSYAN

Secretary of the PABSEC
Economic, Technological,
Commercial and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Tel: +90212 278 94 17
E-mail: artur@pabsec.org

BSEC OBSERVERS

**ARAB REPUBLIC
OF EGYPT**

Mr. Mohamed EL SAYED

Commercial Consul, Consulate
General of the Arab Republic of
Egypt in Istanbul

Tel: +90212 282 94 44, 282 97 77
E-mail: egyptcommercialoffice@yahoo.com

Mr. Haytham ABDELGHANY

Vice Commercial Consul,
Consulate General of the Arab
Republic of Egypt in Istanbul

Tel: +90212 282 94 44, 282 97 77
E-mail: egyptcommercialoffice@yahoo.com

**UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA**

Mr. Nathan MILLER

Political Officer, Consulate
General of the United States of
America in Istanbul

Tel: +90212 335 91 94
E-mail: MillerNM@state.gov

**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

Mr. Zahouani SAADAOU

Head of Sector of e-Customs,
DG TAXUD, European
Commission

Tel: +3248 440 27 62
E-mail: zahouani.saadaoui@ec.europa.eu

BSEC SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNER

BSEC-URTA

Ms. Aslı GÖZÜTOK

President of the BSEC-URTA

Tel: +90212 215 60 05
E-mail: asli.gozutok@bsec-urta.org

Ms. Olga HALDIZ

Assistant to the Secretary
General

Tel: +90212 215 60 05
E-mail: olga.haldiz@bsec-urta.org

GUESTS

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE
(UNECE)**

Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV

Regional Adviser, UNECE

Tel: +4122 917 11 34
E-mail: mario.apostolov@unece.org

**INTERNATIONAL
ROAD
TRANSPORT
UNION (IRU)**

Mr. Adrian ALBU

General Delegate, IRU PDMER

Tel: +90212 310 85 37
E-mail: adrian.albu@iru.org

Mr. Raphael HIRT

Head-e-TIR, IRU

Tel: +4122 918 27 30
E-mail: raphael.hirt@iru.org

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BSEC PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

BSEC PERMIS

Mr. Michael B. CHRISTIDES	Ambassador, Secretary General	Tel: +90 212 229 63 30 E-mail: info@bsec-organization.org www.bsec-organization.org
Mr. Traian CHEBELEU	Ambassador, Deputy Secretary General	Tel: +90 212 229 63 30 ext. 116 E-mail: traian.chebeleu@bsec-organization.org
Mr. Kanan MURTUZOV	Executive Manager	Tel: +90 212 229 63 30 ext. 117 E-mail: kmurtuzov@bsec-organization.org
Ms. Ebru ATEŞ	BSEC PERMIS Secretary	Tel: +90 212 229 63 30 ext. 119 E-mail: ebru@bsec-organization.org

**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE BSEC
WORKING GROUP ON CUSTOMS MATTERS**

BSEC Headquarters, 20 September 2017

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Status of Implementation of Resolutions, Decisions and Recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs related to Customs Matters and follow-up of the Declarations adopted by the Heads of Customs Administrations of the BSEC Member States.
3. Harmonization and simplification of customs procedures.
4. Exchanging experience on the Methodology of Time Release Study.
5. Strategies and policies of the BSEC Member States in enhancing integrity of officials of Customs Administrations in the BSEC Region.
6. Improving customs operations and customs control in respect of goods for personal use moved in international E-commerce.
7. Participation of the BSEC Member States in the International Conventions on Customs Matters.
8. Cooperation between BSEC and the World Customs Organization (WCO).
9. Any other business.
10. Date and venue of the next Meeting.
11. Adoption of the Conclusions of the Informal Meeting.

List of Representatives of the Working Group on Customs Matters

(As of 20 September 2017)

<i>MS</i>	<i>Name of Representative</i>	<i>Title and Place of Work</i>	<i>E-mail</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
ALBANIA ¹	Mrs. Enkeleda HITAJ	Foreign Relations Director, Directorate General of Customs	e_hitaj@dogana.gov.al	+355682049200
ARMENIA	Mr. Armen MELKIKYAN	Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance	armen.melkikyan@minfin.am	+37411800335
AZERBAIJAN	Mr. Igbal BABAYEV	Chief of Head Department of Performance Measurement and Development Programs, Major- general of Customs Service, State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan	igbal.babayev@customs.gov.az	+994124042206
BULGARIA	Ms. Vyara FILIPOVA	Head of International Projects and Multilateral Cooperation Department, International Relations Directorate, National Customs Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria	Vyara.Filipova@customs.bg	+359298594406
GEORGIA				
GREECE	Ms. Smaragda PITENI	Expert, Department of Custom Issues, Ministry of Finance	intrel@otenet.gr	+302103375850

¹ Note of the MFA of Albania of 1 March 2016.

MOLDOVA ²	Mr. Corneliu CROITORU	Head of Customs Control Division, Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova	corneliu.croitoru@customs.gov.md	+37322574138
ROMANIA ³	Ms. Raluca MIHAIL	Senior Adviser, National Agency for Fiscal Administration of Romania	raluca.mihail@mfinante.ro	+40747057404
	Mr. Octavian FLESARIU	Head of Service, Service for Customs European Integration and International Relations, National Customs Authority of Romania	octavian.flesariu@customs.ro	+40213102872
RUSSIA				
SERBIA ⁴	Ms. Aleksandra ILIC	Head of Unit for the Customs Simplified Procedures, Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia	ilica@carina.rs	
TURKEY	Mrs. Didem DİRLİK SONGÜR	Head of Department, Directorate General for the EU and External Relations, Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey	D.Dirlik@gtb.gov.tr	+903124492730
UKRAINE ⁵	Ms. Nataliia BILOUS	Deputy Head of Directorate, Head of the Unit of the Bilateral Customs Cooperation, State Fiscal Service of Ukraine	n_bilous@customs.sfs.gov.ua	+380442472703
	Ms. Iryna BICHENOK	Chief State Inspector of the Multilateral Customs Cooperation and European Integration Unit, State Fiscal Service of Ukraine	bichenok@customs.minrd.gov.ua	+380442472681

² The information was provided on 4 March 2016.

³ Note of the MFA of Romania of 1 March 2016.

⁴ Note of the MFA of Serbia of 26 September 2016.

⁵ Note of the CG of Ukraine of 29 February 2016.

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Istanbul, 15 May 2017

31st MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOBB Plaza

Istanbul - Turkey

Friday, 15 June 2017 at 14:00 hrs

CONCLUSIONS OF THE IRU-BSEC-URTA-BSEC-TOBB SEMINAR ON
COMPUTERIZATION OF TIR PROCEDURES AND OTHER ROAD TRANSPORT
RELATED DOCUMENTS

The Seminar on "Computerization of TIR Procedures and Other Transport Related Documents" was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 15 June 2017. It was jointly organized by the Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

Welcoming statements were delivered by Ms. Aslı Gözütok, President of the Union of Road Transport Associations in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA) and Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, Deputy Secretary General of BSEC PERMIS

BSEC-URTA President, Ms. Aslı Gözütok welcomed the participants and emphasized the role of the BSEC-URTA over the years in promoting the development of road transport in the BSEC Member States, with special reference to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region, with its main objectives to gradually liberalize the road goods transport market, simplify and harmonize custom procedures and documents, simplify and facilitate visa procedures for professional drivers.

Ms. Gözütok expressed that entry into force of the WTO TFA on 22 February 2017 launches a new phase for trade facilitation reforms all-over the world and create a significant boost for commerce and the multilateral trading system as a whole, This is also a momentum for both private and public sectors in the BSEC Member States to reinforce their cooperation and intensify efforts to implement the objectives of the MoU on the Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region.

Ambassador Traian Chebeleu in his opening statement, focused on Significance of this Seminar as one more step in implementing the *BSEC Economic Agenda: Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership*, which sets the "Cooperation among the Customs and Border Crossing Administrations" and "Intensifying intra-regional trade and investments" among the seventeen goals in the priority areas of action of the Organization. He recalled the several initiatives undertaken by BSEC in cooperation with other international organizations aiming at implementing these goals, among which special reference was made to the OSCE-BSEC Workshop on Best Practices at Border Crossing, in 2013, and the Joint UNECE-BSEC Regional Seminar on Trade Facilitation and Single Window, in 2014.

The Seminar was attended by participants from the following IRU and BSEC-URTA Member Associations, Observers and Guests: ANALTIR(AL), ABADA(AZ), AEBTRI(BG), GIRCA(GE), OFAE(GR), AITA(MD), UNTRR(RO), AMERIT(FYROM), UND(TR), TOBB(TR), LVS(LT), ROSGOSSTRACH(RU), BRASS(BG), AULT, BSEC and IRU.

A presentation was made by Mr. Evgeny Koki, Project Manager of BSEC PERMIS which pointed the main provision of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and how will the TFA streamline customs procedures. It was underscored that the full implementation of the TFA will reduce trade costs by 14.3% and by an even bigger percentage for developed countries. The important role of other international agreements and projects in Trade Facilitation was mentioned: WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF); the Revised Kyoto Convention; the TIR Convention; the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods; the International Convention on the Containers; the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System; the Convention on Temporary Admission (Istanbul Convention); the BSEC Permit System; Monitoring the border waiting; BSEC Pilot Project for Introduction of the IVWC in the BSEC Region.

Mr. Koziy mentioned Transit related Global Arrangements as a Trade Facilitation Instrument, highlighting the TIR system as an important facilitation tool for international trade and transport, based on the TIR Convention, 1975, having today 70 contracting parties, and UNECE activities aimed at the computerization of the TIR Procedure and the eTIR pilot projects initiated: Georgia-Turkey and Iran-Turkey. The role of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982, with 58 contracting parties today, in facilitating cross border transport of goods through nationally coordinated, internationally harmonized, shorter, reduced formalities and controls of goods at borders was also underlined.

Mr. Raphaël HIRT, Head of eTIR (IRU) made a presentation on Automation of TIR Procedures and Electronic Exchange of Data. The advantages of the TIR Holder Portal, with 32 connected countries, were also presented. The TIR-EPD Usage was discussed offering details of the eTIR Pilot Project implemented by Turkey-Iran (first phase November 2015-August 2016 and second phase August 2016-February 2017) and its results with a special emphasis on the security of the procedure. This e-TIR Pilot Project enabled IRU to take the opportunity to develop additional facilities for the transport industry such as distance payment of the guarantees, for intermodal transport and the sub-contractors. Also, transport industry sees prospective in the frame of TIR computerization.

The joint UNECE-IRU Turkey-Iran Pilot project report was recently published by UNECE. It concludes in particular that:

- UNECE-IRU eTIR pilot project: Iran – Turkey was a success from multiple perspectives
- Project demonstrates that the full computerisation of TIR is feasible and that procedures implemented in this pilot could serve as a basis for similar projects in any TIR Contracting Party wishing to make progress towards the full computerisation of TIR
- Iran and Turkey, and by extension any other TIR Contracting Party, are strongly encouraged to join or launch new projects to make further progress in the full computerisation of TIR
- In light of the first 64 successful eTIR transports, and pending signature of a new IRU-UNECE MoU to ensure the sustainability of the the to ensure eTIR international system allowing further developments, stakeholders in Iran and Turkey are encouraged to continue eTIR transports between both countries, involving more transport operators and additional customs offices

He also mentioned that a new MoU was just signed between UNECE and IRU aiming at full computerisation of the TIR procedure. Further Pilot Projects will be carried out under this frame, including all countries willing to join.

Mr. Mehmet Ali Oran, EU Expert at the Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey, presented the Turkish Experience and Projections in Use for the Digitalization of Transit Systems. The position of Turkey as a transit country due to its geographical location and as one of the biggest beneficiary country of the transit systems was highlighted. The Transit Systems in Turkey were explained, with emphasis on why Digitalization is crucial.

After a comparison between the TIR System and the Common Transit System, the future of the TIR System and Turkey's approach were discussed, anticipating the future of Transit: e-transactions, a paperless environment and Digital Customs. Special focus was given to C2B2C and C2C data exchange within the scope of eTIR pilot projects that are being conducted by Turkey-Iran and Turkey-Georgia. Potential advantages and future prospects for adding this transit scheme to the WCO Globally Networked Customs (GNC) as a Utility Block was highlighted.

Mr. Ahmet KARAKAŞ (Expert at TOBB) focused on the Transit Facilitation from the perspective of the Private Sector. The following points were highlighted: TOBB's activities and services are fully in line with the requirements of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; TOBB is carrying out the duties of guaranteeing and distribution of documents/permits and, on the other side, is following the other international agreements and is actively present in the international organisations; TOBB is represented in the Trade Facilitation Board established in Turkey where it defends the interests of Turkish Private Sector and provide its feedbacks for simplification, standardisation, harmonization and transparency. Information was also presented on Automation Systems used and developed by TOBB within the concept of Trade Facilitation.

Mr. Zeljko Jeftic, IRU Global Head Innovation made a presentation on "eCMR and related Pilot Projects". The existing IT tools were mentioned, especially the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Roads (eCMR Protocol 2008) concerning the Electronic Consignment Note, which entered into force on 5 June 2011 and is currently ratified by 11 States. The presentation estimated that the market demand for eCMR is real, as its implementation brings considerable benefits for all actors involved in financial terms and in transparency and traceability terms. Furthermore, eCMR brings increased economic competitiveness of countries and parties involved and also increases road safety

Ms. Natalia Polunina, Director of Transport Insurance Department, Rosgosstrakh Russian Federation made presentation on the "Impact of usage of eCMR instead of paper CMR from the perspective of an Insurer"

Conclusions

Participants to the Seminar:

- Noted the progress made by Turkey in line with the success of the ongoing eTIR pilot projects with Iran and Georgia and expressed their hope that similar Pilot projects will be soon extended to Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan and any country willing to join.
- Called on BSEC PERMIS to conduct a joint session of the Working Group on Customs Matters and BSEC-URTA Member Associations with a view to considering implementation of the e-TIR in the BSEC region.
- Stressed the importance of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region as a priority, which also contains special provisions for facilitation of customs procedures at the borders of the BSEC Member States.
- Welcomed the elaboration of the Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy for the BSEC Region, in collaboration with the BSEC Working Groups on Custom Matters and on Trade and Economic Development,

Recommendations

Participants to the Seminar made the following recommendations:

- BSEC should consider setting-up a Task Force under the joint coordination of the Working Groups on Customs Matters, on Trade and Economic Development and on Transport with participation of BSEC-URTA having as main task a coordinated implementation of the BSEC Strategy Paper on Trade Facilitation under a specific and timeframe Action Plan.
 - The BSEC Member States are encouraged to allow the industry to go digital by ratifying the Additional e-CMR Protocol.
 - The BSEC Member States are encouraged to join the ongoing projects aiming at Computerization of TIR procedures, based on the successful conclusions of the Iran-Turkey Pilot project, and on the new MoU signed between UNECE and IRU.
 - Necessary synergies should be considered by the BSEC Member States to conduct the pilot projects related to the computerization of TIR procedures.
 - UNECE and Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention should intensify their efforts for further facilitation under this Convention.
 - Encouraged all the stakeholders to take tangible measures to implement the e-data exchange mechanism with the neighbouring states and potential regional partners for a more comprehensive risk analysis method and expeditious transport, to enhance the trade facilitation.
 - BSEC working groups related to customs matters, to trade facilitation and road transport to jointly work for implementation of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of the Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region.
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RESOLUTION
of the 18th International Conference
“International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects”

We the delegates of the 18th International Conference “International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects”, held on 6-7 September 2017 in Odessa, Ukraine,

fully aware of the fundamental changes in transport and logistics sectors in the context of the growing fourth industrial revolution, achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), outcomes of the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport, convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 26-27 November 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and of the Ministerial Resolution on “Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility”, adopted at the 79th session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (21 February 2017);

stressing an important role of the road transport in achieving SDGs, promoting sustainable transport and cargo mobility, as well as effective and reliable trade and transport links;

welcoming the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in February 2017, geographical expansion of key UN international agreements and conventions, facilitating trade, transport and transit, namely, the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975), with recent accession of Pakistan, China, India and others;

committed to the implementation of the UN Resolution 70/197, Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors (on 22 December 2015), through gradual development of interregional transport links between Western, Central and Eastern Europe, the Black Sea region, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific area, in particular the transport corridors of Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA), and the GUAM Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development, connecting with the Trans-European transport network (TEN-T);

promoting the full use of Information Communication Technologies in international road transport, with particular emphasis on the computerisation of procedures, established under the UN agreements and conventions, namely, the implementation of e-CMR, the digital consignment note, and eTIR, the new generation of the global customs transit system;

emphasising the creation of favourable conditions for fleets renewal that meet high ecological standards and safety requirements, thus contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as the UN Resolution 70/260, Improving global road safety (on 15 April 2016);

taking into account the need for the ongoing harmonisation of criteria and requirements referred to by international road transport operators when accessing the market of transport services, as well as increasing the scope of multilateral permit systems;

fully supporting the consistency in building professional excellence of drivers and managers in road transport companies,

hereby address national governments, international organisations and all stakeholders concerned by the development of sustainable road transport, and recommend to

- further update national legislation to comply with the international provisions and standards contained in UN conventions and agreements, as well as in the Trade Facilitation Agreement, providing seamless cross-border transport and transit;
- implement and promote the use of technological innovations in road transport, in particular by encouraging the transition to the digitalisation of transport documents, first of all in international transport;
- apply the new ones and further promote the existing TIR tools – iCarnet (a guarantee for customs transit between customs authorities of the same country), TIR+ (increased guarantee under TIR), eTIR (electronic TIR procedure), engaging subcontractors under the TIR procedure, launching intermodal pilots under cover of TIR Carnets, TIR-EPD (TIR Electronic Pre-Declaration);

- take steps for signing new bilateral and multilateral agreements on international road transport with the People's Republic of China and other countries in Asia and Middle East that shall provide access for foreign transport operators to Chinese and Asian countries freight cargo, and geographical expansion of international road transport in new directions;
- join new eTIR pilots, aimed at paperless TIR and run by IRU together with the UNECE, as well as launch a fully electronic procedure on transport corridors of TRACECA and GUAM, connecting Ukraine with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan;
- accede to the electronic consignment note (e-CMR) Protocol of the UN's Convention on transporting cargo by road, the CMR, and put it into practice of international road transport operations;
- amend bilateral intergovernmental agreements on international road transport, by removing transit and bilateral permits for the transport of goods, increasing the scope of multilateral permit systems;
- further promote high-quality and safe infrastructure along the international transport and transit corridors, particularly TRACECA, GUAM and the Black Sea Ring Highway corridors, connecting the Trans-European transport network (TEN-T) with the Asian Highway network;
- create conditions for fair competition and transparent access to the market of transport services, by updating national legislation to comply with the provisions provided by the Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System;
- promote energy-efficient and innovative fleets that meet high ecological standards, using the instruments of operational and financial leasing;
- promote relevant training programmes for professional drivers aimed at reducing accident rates and the severity of injuries;
- apply IRU Academy standards recognised by the ECMT Quality Charter as a key benchmark that fully meets the requirements for professional qualifications of drivers and managers of transport companies.

Odessa, Ukraine, 7 September 2017

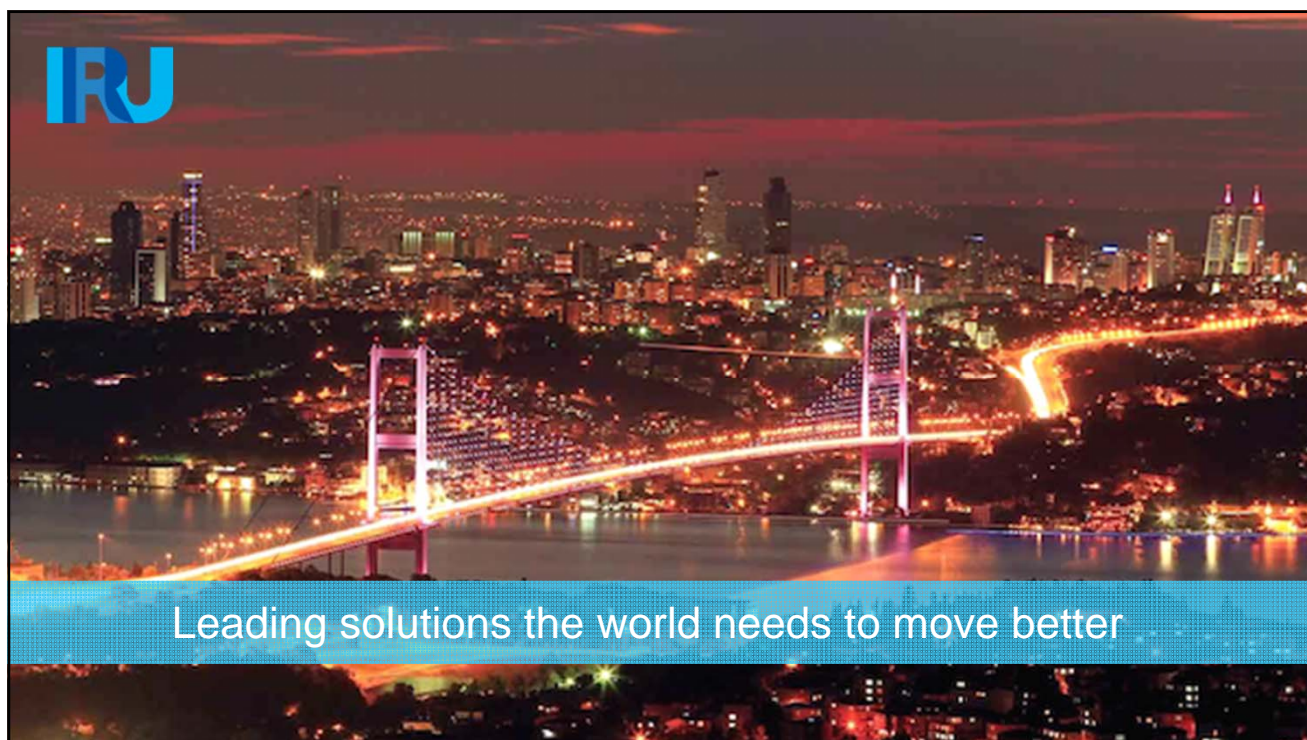


Digitalisation of TIR Procedures

Raphaël Hirt, Head eTIR

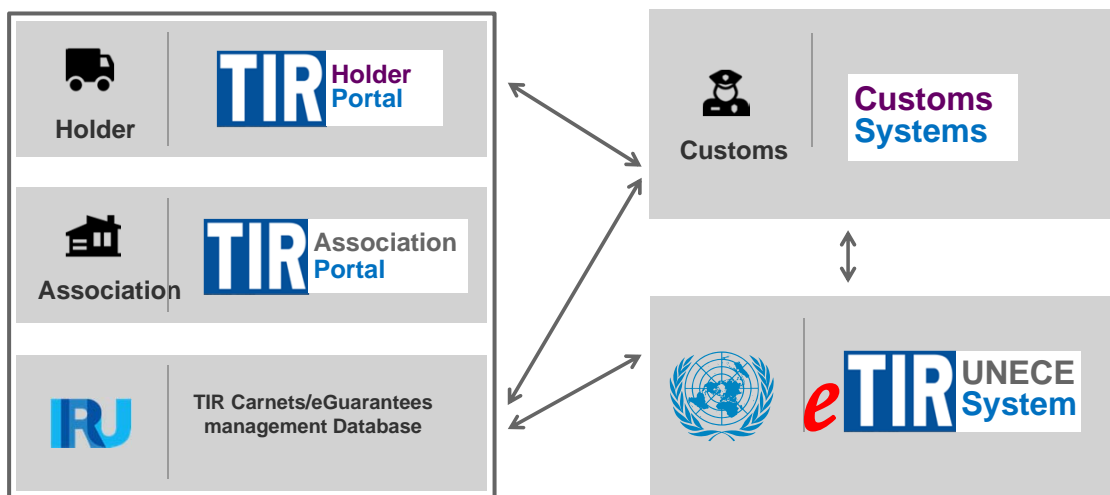
20 September 2017
BSEC WG on Customs matters, Istanbul

raphael.hirt@iru.org



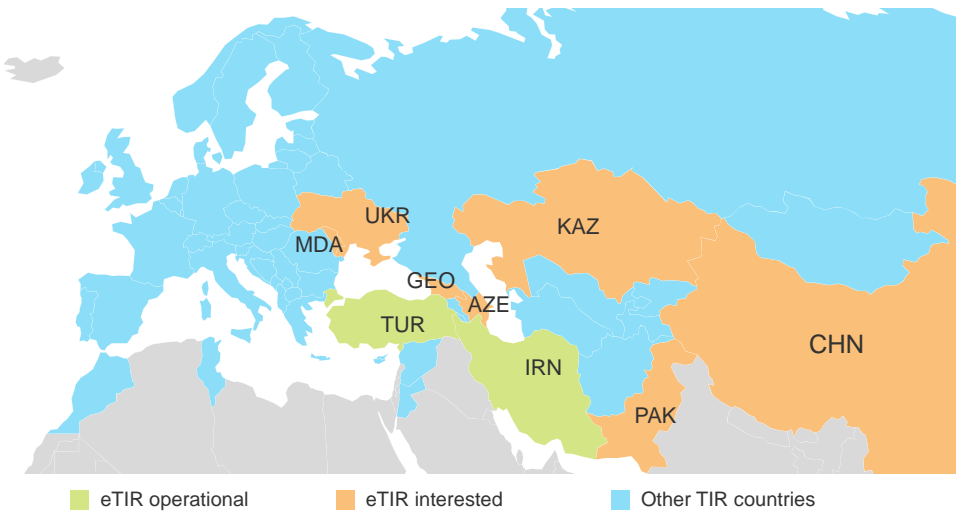


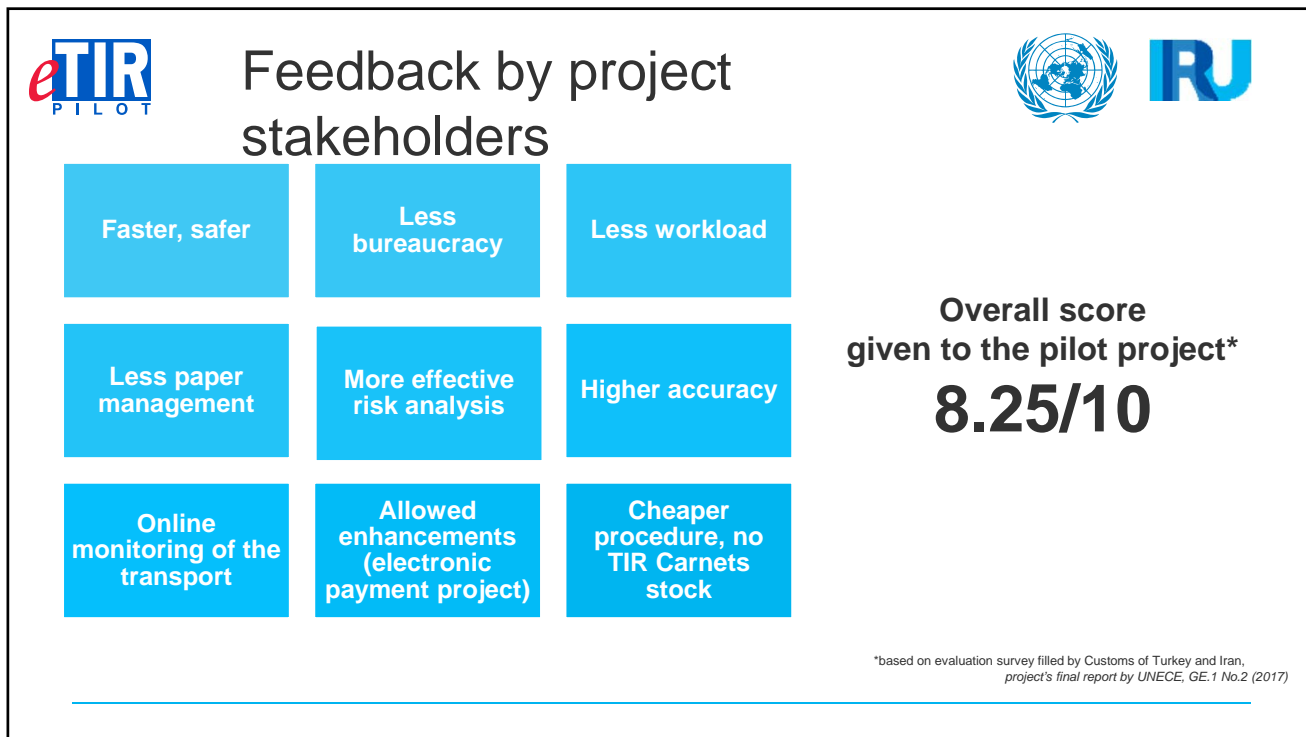
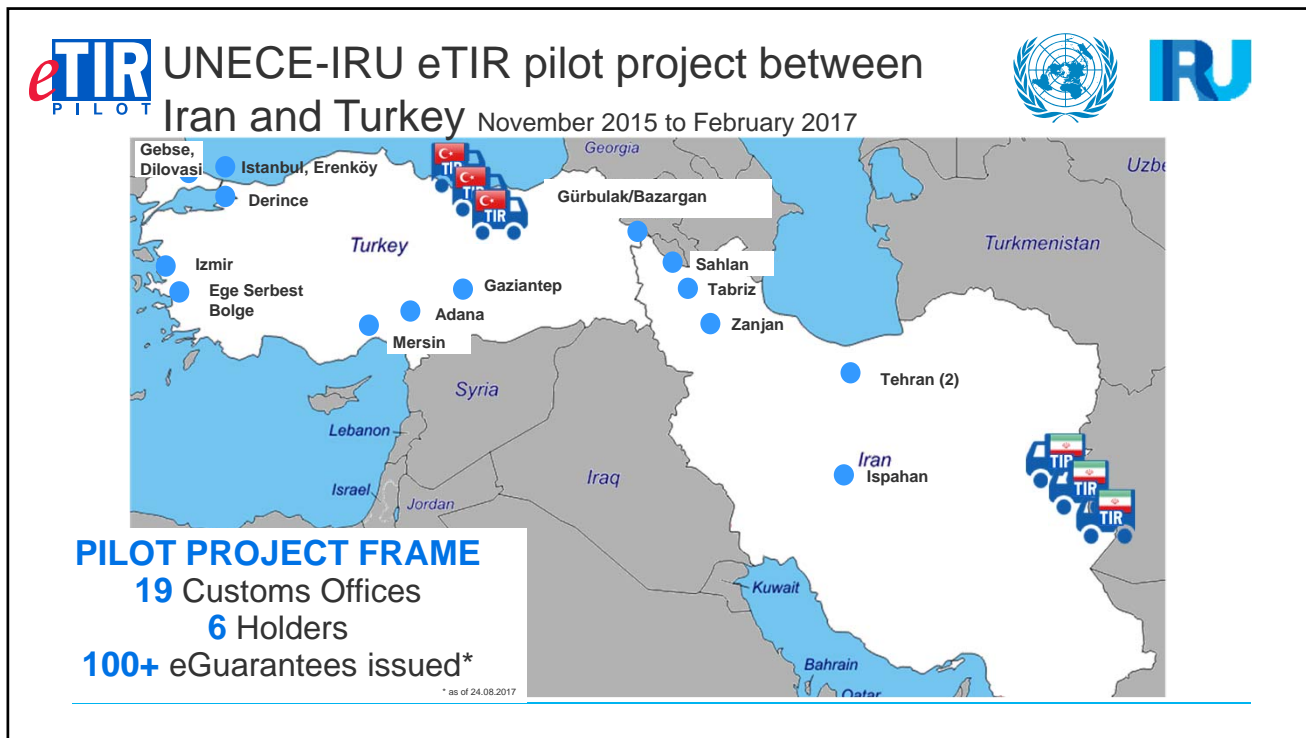
Data exchange amongst TIR stakeholders



Recent initiatives to digitalise the TIR procedure

Countries interested in TIR computerisation







Report on Pilot project published by UNECE



Conclusions and recommendations

- UNECE-IRU eTIR pilot project: Iran – Turkey **was a success** from multiple perspectives
- Project demonstrates that the **full computerisation of TIR is feasible** and that procedures implemented in this pilot could serve as **a basis for similar projects** in any TIR Contracting Party wishing to make progress towards the full computerisation of TIR
- Iran and Turkey, and by extension any other TIR Contracting Parties, **are strongly encouraged to join or launch new projects** to make further progress in the full computerisation of TIR
- In light of the first 64 successful eTIR transports, and pending signature of a new IRU-UNECE MoU to ensure the sustainability of the “lightweight” eTIR international system allowing further developments, stakeholders in **Iran and Turkey are encouraged to continue eTIR transports between both countries**, involving more transport operators and additional customs offices

Workshop on TIR computerisation

Batumi, 11-12 May 2017, hosted by Georgian Customs





Black sea-Caspian sea corridor



THE POWER OF DATA
 Advancing Border Management
 7 to 9 June | Tbilisi | Georgia

TRG	234	450	100	25	174	
RTG	254	650	679	63	125	274
WEF	784	145	124	752	941	963
HRT	453	784	254			

WCO IT 2017 Conference & Exhibition

- the TIR system is set to ensure inter-operability and inter-connectivity of data at borders
- Both Heads of Azerbaijan and Georgia agreed to further digitaliseTIR
 - Technical implementation in process

12
A single window of operations

Full **TIR** digitalisation high in the agendas **RU**

- ✓ Meets goals of BSEC trade facilitation strategy
- ✓ BSEC working group on Customs matters (21 April 2017)
 - ✓ Report on developments of Customs IT systems,
 - ✓ and progress of eTIR Pilot project
- ✓ BSEC-URTA General Assembly, 15 June 2017
 - ✓ Called for implementation of further eTIR Pilots in the region
- ✓ 18th International Conference on Road transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects, Odessa UA, 7 September 2017
 - ✓ Recommends to use existing TIR tools and to join eTIR Pilots
- ✓ WP.30 looks into defining legal frame and financing of eTIR



IRU to support TIR digitalisation **RU**



- A 5-years Cooperation agreement with UNECE for the full computerisation of TIR will be signed.



- IRU to finance the implementation of eTIR international database at UNECE.



- Continue technical assistance to countries willing to digitalise, i.e. Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan...

Speed-up modernisation of TIR procedure to respond to needs of trade



Raphael.hirt@iru.org
Thank you

Participation of the BSEC Member States in International Conventions Related to Customs Matters
(As of 21 April 2017)

BSEC Countries												
	AL	AR	AZ	BG	GE	GR	MD	RO	RF	SRB	TR	UA
International Conventions												
International Convention on the Simplification and harmonization of Customs Procedures- Kyoto Convention as amended	2013	2013	2006	2004	-	2004	-	2011	2011	2007	2006	2011
International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System	-	2011	2000	1992	2011	1990	2006	1997	1997	2002	1989	2004
Customs Convention on Containers	-	2006	2005	1977	1999	1973	-	1975	1976	2001	1994	1976
Convention on Temporary Admission, Istanbul Convention	2009	-	-	2003	2010	1997	2009	2002	1996	2010	2004	2004
International Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance for the Prevention, Investigation and Repression of Customs Offences- Nairobi Convention	2001	-	2002	-	2009	-	2001	-	1994	-	1982	2000
International Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters- Johannesburg Convention	2005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods	2004	1993	2000	1998	1999	1987	2010	2000	1986	2001	2006	2003
Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention)	1985	1993	1996	1977	1994	1980	1993	1980	1982	2001	1984	1994
Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles	2003	-	-	1959	-	-	-	1961	1959	2001	1983	-

Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles	-	-	2000	1959	-	1961	2013	1966	-	2001	2005	-
Customs Convention on the ATA Carnet for the Temporary Admission of Goods (ATA Convention)	-	-	-	1964	-	1975	-	1967	1996	2001	1974	-
Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR Convention)	2006	2006	2006	1977	1999	1977	1993	1973	1983	2001	1995	2007
Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council (1952)	1992	1992	1992	1973	1993	1951	1994	1969	1991	2001	1951	1992
Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF)	1984	-	-	1982	-	1986	-	1983	-	2001	1985	2003
Protocol of 3 June 1999 for the Modification of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) of 9 May 1980 (1999 Protocol)	2003	2010	-	2004	2011	2008	-	2002	2008	2001	2006	2007
WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement	2016	2017	*	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	*	2016	2015
Number of International Customs Conventions to which the Member State is a contracting party	12	9	9	14	10	13	9	14	13	13	15	12

(*) Not a member of the WTO.